

Sunday, January 10, 2016

Wheel Easy Ride Report 506

Medium Ride

Twelve riders opted for the medium ride to Boston Spa via Sicklinghall and Wetherby. Ian led one group and myself the other. However, everyone was familiar with the route so there was little to do. Although it was a cold and wet morning Andy joined us for his first Wheel Easy ride. Unfortunately he had to be home for midday so he left us at Wetherby and Gia accompanied him home. It was an enjoyable 30 mile ride in good company even though we didn't stop for coffee. Paul



Medium Plus Ride

The weather looked uncertain as we set off from Hornbeam. 5 left in the faster group leaving 14 steady riders with Sue and Monica. It was a touch of the deja-vus as we headed for Great Ouseburn on rain-soaked roads, getting our feet wet for the first time in Marton-cum-Grafton. We were surprised to find no floods between the Aldwark toll bridge and Beningborough, although one short stretch was marked closed for no obvious reason and we had to squeeze round the barriers at both ends. Partly due to this, perhaps, there was plenty of space for both groups at the Beningborough farm shop.

Retracing our steps to Great Ouseburn and then turning into a headwind towards Cattal, we dipped our toes in an even deeper puddle. Steady progress was made under improving skies through Spofforth and Follifoot and it was a relief to clear the ever unwelcome showground hill for the final leg into town. About 45 miles Sue C, Monica and David Webber





Long Ride

The weather was cold, breezy and showery as 5 set off on the long ride to Grassington. All went well up to Penny Pot Lane when there was an almighty crack and for a second we thought a farmer was nearby rabbiting. It turned out to be Peter's rear tube blowing big time and a closer look showed a half inch split in the tyre. Out came Phil's trusty 2 inch by 1 inch toothpaste tube liner, in it went, and as the tyre was blown up - it literally did as the tube went again! So it was the family emergency service for Peter.

We'd also lost one of our 5 who somehow didn't hear the first 'shot' (or maybe he did!) and kept going never to be seen again. Now we were 3 and heading for the A59 which was closed cars etc from Blubberhouses to the top because of an invisible landslip. So off we went into the wind, rain, sleet and hailstones up the Cote de Blubberhouses, through the slush, on the wrong side of the road and with zero traffic because of the road closure!! Fantastic!

The chilly descent to the Bolton Abbey roundabout convinced us to stop at the Bolton Abbey Tea Rooms for some warmth. Strange we thought as at least 2 cyclists wearing shorts came in; it takes all sorts!

Then on to Barden Bridge, through to Appletreewick and up to Stump Cross for more tea. Great scenery was in every direction, with a fair bit of thin sunshine. Then down Duck Street to Hampsthwaite and back to Hornbeam. So 48 miles, around 4000ft of climb, and we all agreed it had been a really good day out. John